

Message Text

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41

ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 /010 W
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R 071115Z JAN 76
FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7475

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE YAOUNDE 0076

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AREG, CM

SUBJECT: INTERPRETATION OF FAM REGULATIONS ON CONFLICTS OF
INTEREST

REF: STATE 301420 AND PREVIOUS

1. IN VIEW OF LINGERING DEPARTMENTAL DOUBTS AS TO JUSTIFICATION OF ACCEPTING FREE MEMBERSHIPS, AND ABSURDITY OF TRYING TO NEGOTIATE SPECIAL REDUCTION FROM REGULAR RATES INSTEAD OF GRACEFULLY ACCEPTING WHAT IS BEING OFFERED GRATIS, EMBASSY PREFERS SIMPLY DECLINE HOTEL'S GENEROUS OFFER AND LET ANY PERSONNEL SUFFICIENTLY INTERESTED IN PROMOTING NATIONAL INTEREST THROUGH USE OF FACILITIES DO SO AT FULL COST TO THEMSELVES (WHICH SHOULD BE TAX DEDUCTIBLE UNDER IRS REGULATIONS).

2. HOTEL MANAGER STATES HE SENT MEMBERSHIP CARDS TO ALL REPEAT ALL DIPLOMATIC LIST PERSONNEL OF ALL MISSIONS (EXCEPT US - THE EXCEPTION BEING AT OUR REQUEST PENDING DEPARTMENT'S APPROVAL). NO CARDS WERE REFUSED OR RETURNED. NO STATISTICS AVAILABLE ON EXTENT OF ACTUAL USE OF FACILITIES.

3. AMBASSADOR PERSONALLY HAS LINGERING DOUBTS ABOUT QUIBBLES RAISED IN REFTEL. IF EMBASSY IS TO REPRESENT US OPTIMALLY, IN COMPETITION WITH LONGER ESTABLISHED AND BETTER FINANCED OTHERS, INCLUDING ESPECIALLY FRENCH, FROM WHOM GURC IS DELIBERATELY TRYING TO "DIVERSIFY" ITS RELATIONS, EMBASSY SHOULD BE ABLE TO JUMP AT SHERATON MT FEBE PALACE HOTEL OFFER; IN STUFFY, FORMAL, PROTOCOL-DOMINATED YAOUNDE ATMOSPHERE,
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WHERE ONE INFORMAL CONTACT IS OFTEN WORTH FIVE FORMAL ONES.

INSTEAD, DEPARTMENT'S NARROW INTERPRETATION HOBBS OUR
FREEDOM OF ACTION AND CASTS IMPLIED DOUBTS ON EMBOFFS'S
INTEGRITY AND ABILITY TO OBSERVE CONFLICT OF INTEREST
REGULATIONS. FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMUNITY OF CAMEROON WILL
ENJOY WRY AMUSEMENT AT US EMBASSY'S INABILITY OR UNWILLINGNESS
TO ACCEPT OFFER FROM AMERICAN MANAGEMENT OF ONLY INTERNATIONAL
CLASS HOTEL IN COUNTRY.
SPIRO

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